GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:287
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2017
Space Innovation Centres
Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy;Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to set up Space Innovation Centres in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) so as to encourage young researchers keen on exploring space technology and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether such centres are proposed to be a part of Universities and if so, the details thereof;
(c) the mechanism in place for covering the costs of such institutions;
(d) the system for ensuring transparency and accountability in such research institutions; and
(e) the initiatives taken by the Government to encourage and promote interests in space research/space related fields especially amongst the youth?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO.287 REGARDING "SPACE INNOVATION CENTRES" ASKED BY SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA AND DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI FOR ANSWER ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017.

(a), (b), (c) & (d)

As on date, there is no plan to setup Space Innovation Centres in the country.
However, DOS/ ISRO has a specific programme named Sponsored Research (RESPOND), which is intended for encouraging academia and young researchers to participate in research activities and promote quality research in Indian universities/ institutes in wide range of areas with respect to space technology, space science and space applications. Under RESPOND programme, ISRO has also set up Space Technology Cells at premiere institutions like Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) - Bombay, Kanpur, Kharagpur & Madras; Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore and Joint Research Programme with University of Pune (UoP) to carry out research activities in the areas of space technology and applications.

(e) Department of Space (DOS) has taken following initiatives to encourage and promote interest in space science and research amongst the youth:

(i) The space science and planetary missions, viz. Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission, ASTROSAT, were undertaken by ISRO to renew the interest of young minds towards space science.

(ii) ISRO - Space Science Promotion Scheme (ISRO-SSPS), started during 2008-09 period, is an initiative towards supporting and strengthening of research in space sciences in the universities. Under this scheme, ISRO has been providing funding support to eight universities for strengthening academic activities and augmenting laboratory facilities. The salient features of the scheme includes M.Sc / M.Tech fellowship to meritorious students, one time grant for laboratory augmentation and honorarium and travel support for visiting scientists / guest faculties.

(iii) Planetary Exploration (PLANEX) program has been supporting research activities at universities and research institutions to conduct studies in planetary sciences and exploration and allied fields.

(iv) ISRO/ DOS sponsors a symposium "National Space Science Symposium (NSSS)," conducted once in two years to provide a scientific forum for the presentation of new results and to discuss recent developments in space science, planetary exploration and ground-based astronomy programmes/ projects being pursued at various research institutions and universities in India.

(v) ISRO's Sponsored Research (RESPOND) Programme also encourages Junior Research Fellows and young researchers to participate and contribute in various space programme related research activities.

(vi) Department of Space regularly organizes workshops, exhibitions and outreach programmes to create excitement amongst students in space science and technology.

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